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TC 1700

Docket No. 20205

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Tatarka, et al.  
Appl. No.: 09/611,192  
Filed: July 6, 2000  
For: Ionomeric, Puncture Resistant,  
Thermoplastic Patch Bag, Film, Blend  
and Process

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 15, 2003.  
*Kim M. Ramsey*  
Kim M. Ramsey

*4/15/03*  
*me*

Group Art Unit: 1772  
Examiner: Sandra M. Nolan

April 15, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

In reply to the Official Action dated October 15, 2002, for which a three (3) month extension of time is requested, making the deadline for reply April 15, 2003, please amend the application as follows.

In The Title:

Please replace the title, Page 1, with the following:

IONOMERIC, PUNCTURE RESISTANT, THERMOPLASTIC BAG

In The Specification:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure, beginning on Page 31, as follows:

A bag combination of: (a) a flexible, thermoplastic, biaxially stretched, heat shrinkable film bag having at least one blend layer comprising: 45 to 85 weight % of a first polymer (of 55 to 98°C m.p.) comprising a copolymer of ethylene and hexene-1 or octene-1; 5 to 35 weight % of a second ethylene  $\alpha$ -olefin copolymer; (115 to 128°C m.p.); and 10 to 50 weight % of a third polymer (60 to 110°C m.p.) comprising an unmodified or anhydride-modified copolymer of ethylene and a vinyl ester, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, or an alkyl

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acrylate; where the first and second polymers combined are  $\geq 50$  weight % based upon the three polymer blend; and the bag film has a total energy absorption  $\geq 0.70$  Joule and a shrinkage value at  $90^{\circ}\text{C} \geq 50\%$  (M.D. or T.D.); and (b) a the bag and covering  $\geq 25\%$  of the bag's surface the film comprising:

5 to 20 weight % of (i) an ionomer; and

5 to 95 weight percent of (ii) a copolymer of ethylene and at least one  $\text{C}_6$  to  $\text{C}_8$   $\alpha$ -olefin,  $55$  to  $95^{\circ}\text{C}$  m.p. and  $\overline{M}_w/\overline{M}_n$  of 1.5 to 3.5);

0 to 90 weight % each of (iii) a copolymer of ethylene and at least one  $\text{C}_4$  to  $\text{C}_8$   $\alpha$ -olefin, ( $100$  to  $125^{\circ}\text{C}$  m.p.); (iv) a copolymer of propylene and ethylene or butene-1 ( $105$  to  $145^{\circ}\text{C}$  m.p.), and

(v) a copolymer of ethylene and hexene-1, octene-1 and/or decene-1, ( $125$  to  $135^{\circ}\text{C}$  m.p.); and polymers (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v) have a combined weight % of  $\geq 80$  weight % based upon the total weight of polymers (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v); and the film and bag laminate has a total energy absorption of  $\geq 1.2$  Joule.

In The Claims:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A patch bag comprising:

(a) a bag having an inside surface and an outside surface, said bag comprising a flexible, thermoplastic, biaxially stretched, heat shrinkable film having at least one layer comprising a blend of at least three copolymers comprising:

45 to 85 weight percent of a first polymer having a melting point of from  $55$  to  $98^{\circ}\text{C}$  comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and at least one comonomer selected from the group of hexene-1 and octene-1;

5 to 35 weight percent of a second polymer having a melting point of from  $115$  to  $128^{\circ}\text{C}$  comprising at least one copolymer of ethylene and at least one  $\alpha$ -olefin; and